(b) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light and the action taken against the companies;

(c) whether Government would issue press release for awareness of the employees and general public; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As and when cases are detected, suitable action is taken against establishment as per provisions "Of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and schemes thereunder.

(c) and (d) Publicity compaigns are undertaken to familiarise employers and employees with various provisions of Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and schemes framed thereunder.

Extension of age limit under the Child Labour Act

976. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRIMATI N.R DURGA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States like Andhra Pradesh desire to extend the age limit under the Child Labour Act to enable the child to get at least education upto SSC under compulsory education system; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for elimination of child labour and to educate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 occupations and 57 processes. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable for prosecution. The Central Government and State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child-related provisions of the laws.

The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the benefit of child labour withdrawn from work, namely, the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. Under these schemes Special Schools/Centres have been set up with provision for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care etc. So far NCLPs have been sanctioned in 100 districts in 13 child labour endemic States for coverage of 2.11 lakh children. As per the information available, 1.45 lakh children (approx.) have already been mainstreamed into formal education school system.

Aware generation activities are also being taken by the concerned project societies set up under the NCLP at the district level.

Loss of jobs by women

977. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women who have lost their jobs because of disinvestment, during the last three years, sector-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of those who have been relocated during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the number of women who have opted forVRS, during the same period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) All decisions of the Government relating to disinvestments do not automatically have a direct impact on the jobs of the employees of the concerned public sector company. When the decision involves a strategic sale with the transfer of management and control of the company, the issues relating to employees assume importance and the concerns are appropriately addressed in the terms and conditions of sale.

As per the available information, approx. 3.69 lakh employees of central PSUs have gone on voluntary retirement during the period from October 1988 to March 2001. No separate information relating to the number of women who have taken VRS or who have been relocated, is maintained in the Department of Public Enterprises.